



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

August 3, 2006

## **ICE arrests man who attempted to import heroin in his luggage and stomach**

MAYAGUEZ, Puerto Rico— A 25-year-old Dominican who attempted to import more than 373 grams of heroin in his luggage and 86 pellets (1.1 kilograms) of the same contraband in his stomach was arrested here yesterday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents.

Simon Hernandez arrived at the Mayaguez, Puerto Rico seaport from the Dominican Republic onboard the M/V Caribbean Express. During a routine customs inspection, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers found 29 pellets of heroin weighing 373 grams hidden in his luggage.

A more thorough secondary inspection of Hernandez identified him as carrying 86 pellets of heroin in his stomach for an estimated weight of 1.1 kilograms.

Simon Hernandez was taken to a local hospital where he expelled the contraband he was carrying in his stomach.

“We will simply not tolerate the infiltration of contraband through our ports of entry and will bring those who attempt to do it to justice,” said Lydia St. John, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Puerto Rico. “We have the necessary state-of-the-art technology and our inspectors and agents are well trained to detect this type of criminal activity.”

Simon Hernandez is in ICE custody and will be transferred to the Metropolitan Detention Center in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico after his initial appearance before a magistrate judge.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*